

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00540 111854Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /041 W
-----120459Z 011747 /11
R 111636Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2424
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 540

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, CA, PINT
SUBJ: QUEBEC FEDERATION OF LABOR-PQ GOVT. RELATIONS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. QUEBEC FEDERATION OF LABOR (QFL) AND PQ GOVERNMENT SHARE SIMILAR SOCIO-ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES THAT WILL BE ELABORATED IN EARLY TRIPARTITE SUMMIT MEETING. QFL FAVORS GREATER PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY BUT IS OPPOSED TO OUTRIGHT SEPARATION. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING RECENT DISCUSSION LABATT HAD WITH QFL PRESIDENT LOUIS LABERGE AND RAYMOND DESILETS OF QUEBEC DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AN EXTRAORDINARY IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND QUEBEC'S LARGEST LABOR CENTRAL WAS CLEARLY APPARENT. LABERGE JUSTIFIED QFL'S ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR PQ ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN ON GROUNDS OF ORGANIZED LABOR'S HOSTILITY FOR BOURASSA GOVERNMENT, ABSENCE OF NDP AS MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVE AND PQ PLATFORM EMPHASIZING DEMOCRATIC, PRO-LABOR POSTURE. DURING EARLY WEEKS OF LEVESQUE'S GOVERNMENT CERTAIN LABOR CODE AMENDMENTS WERE AGREED UPON. THESE INCLUDE SIMPLIFYING AND SPEEDING UP UNION CERTIFICATION, STRENGTHENING BARGAINING IN GOOD FAITH PROVISIONS, IMPROVING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS TO BE ENFORCED BY JOINT LABOR-MANAGEMENT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00540 111854Z

COMMITTEES, AND ELIMINATING OBSTACLES TO SECTORAL OR INDUSTRY-WIDE BARGAINING. BOTH GOVERNMENT AND LABOR PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON GOVERNMENT-MANAGEMENT-LABOR SUMMIT MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL WHERE BROAD CONSENSUS ON ECONOMIC POLICY AND AGREEMENT ON WAGE/PRICE OR PROFIT RESTRAINTS WILL BE SOUGHT. DESILETS SAID THAT PQ GOVERNMENT WILL ATTEMPT TO GET UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS TO AGREE TO LIMIT WAGE ADJUSTMENTS

THIS YEAR

TO 6 PERCENT AS INFLATION PROTECTION PLUS 2 PERCENT ANNUAL
IMPROVEMENT

FACTOR. MORIBUND PROVINCIAL ANTI-INFLATION COMMISSION WOULD
BECOME MONITORING AGENCY. REMAINDER OF PUBLIC AND PARAPUBLIC
SECTORS WHO DID NOT RECEIVE SETTLEMENTS UNDER BOURASSA
GOVERNMENT WHICH EXCEEDED GUIDELINES WOULD BE PERMITTED GRA-
DUAL CATCH-UPS AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS TO NARROW GAP BETWEEN
LOW AND HIGHLY PAID WORKERS WOULD BE GRANTED TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT
NOT ONLY FROM QFL BUT CEQ (TEACHERS) AND CONFEDERATION OF
NATIONAL TRADE UNIONS AS WELL. ACCORDING TO DESILETS AND
LABERGE, THESE LATTER TWO ORGANIZATIONS ARE SLOWLY COMING
TO REALIZATION THAT THEY HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO AND DESPITE
THEIR MORE LEFTIST ORIENTATION ARE BEGINNING SLOWLY TO COME
TO TERMS WITH THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

3. LABERGE DOES NOT EXPECT NATIONALIZATION OF INDUSTRY
WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF ASBESTOS. HE SHARES WITH
GOVERNMENT A PREFERENCE FOR EXPANSION OF PROCESSING
INDUSTRIES AS IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN REDUCING HIGH RATE OF
PROVINCIAL UNEMPLOYMENT. ON SOCIO-CULTURAL SIDE, THE GOVERN-
MENT HAS INDICATED ITS AIMS OF IMPROVING QUALITY OF WORKING LIFE
AND MAKING FRENCH THE LANGUAGE OF THE WORKPLACE.

4. ALTHOUGH QFL LEADERSHIP RETAINS ITS STRONG NATIONALISTIC
TENDENCIES AND SUPPORTS CONCEPT OF GREATER PROVINCIAL
AUTONOMY, THERE IS NOTICEABLE OPPOSITION TO SECESSION. IN
RECOGNITION OF EXTREME RIGHT AND LEFT FRINGE GROUPS AMONG
QFL MEMBERSHIP, LABERGE PLANS TO MOUNT EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 00540 111854Z

AMONG RANK AND FILE STRESSING ADVANTAGES OF POLITICAL TIES
TO OTTAWA AND RETAINING INTERNATIONAL UNION AFFILIATIONS
(PROVIDING THEY GIVE ADEQUATE SERVICES FOR MEMBERS DUES)
AS COUNTERWEIGHT TO TRANSNATIONAL ENTERPRISES.

5. COMMENT: CORDIALITY AND EMERGING CONSENSUS PORTRAYED
BY QFL AND PQ ARE NO DOUBT MANIFESTATIONS OF SATISFACTION WITH
RECENT ELECTORAL VICTORY AND SEARCH FOR MUTUAL ACCOMMODATION.
ADVERSE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WHICH MIGHT BE EXACERBATED BY
INVESTORS' UNCERTAINTY COULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR GOVERNMENT
TO FULFILL ITS PROMISES TO ORGANIZED LABOR AND THEREBY SHORTEN
THE HONEYMOON. IF ECONOMY PERFORMS ADEQUATELY AND THE
QUEBEC GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTS SOME OF ITS LESS COSTLY PRO-
MISES TO LABOR AND OBTAINS A CONSENSUS AT THE FORTHCOMING
TRIPARTITE SUMMIT, QFL'S COOPERATION IS APT TO BE MAINTAINED
AT LEAST UNTIL LEVESQUE HOLDS THE REFERENDUM.
ENDERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OTTAWA00540
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770050-0676
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770250/aaaabruj.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 77ebf5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3342568
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUEBEC FEDERATION OF LABOR-PQ GOVT. RELATIONS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/77ebf5c7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009